

# Christ Connection

LINKS to ZOOM Worship

Empowered by God's love and following in the ways of Jesus Christ, we Live, Grow and Share as disciples of Christ.

For the Week Beginning November 8, 2020 23rd Sunday after Pentecost



This week I have had many conversations with people who are experiencing this election week as particularly stressful and anxious. I imagine you may also be having these conversations, and you too may be experiencing higher than average levels of stress and anxiety. For

some, this primarily relates whether their candidate or issue 'won' or 'lost.' For others, the deep divisions in this country and among families and friends require moral and ethical struggles about how - or whether - to engage with each other. For still others, the primary anxieties relate to civil safety amid protests or personal safety amid threats and intimidation.

I am not immune to this stress and anxiety. I too care deeply how our elected leaders guide our nation, how we as citizens engage each other, and about safety for myself, my family, and the most vulnerable in our society. Our Lutheran understanding of vocation includes the responsibility to participate conscientiously in civil society. At the same time, our Lutheran understanding provides an opening for breath and forward movement in spite of anxiety.

We easily get caught up in the 'winning,' 'losing' and political games of our civil society. This tempts us to forget that our salvation lies not in the government but in Christ. We might compare the United States government to the various empires of old testament times or the Roman empire of new testament times. The prophets' messages consistently reminded God's people that they were to be a people set apart, a 'strange people' who relied on God rather than civil government. Jesus' message echoed the claims of the prophets. Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God. God calls God's people to live lives centered around care for our neighbor and love for our enemies. The path of the disciple leads not to power and domination, but to the self-sacrificial cross. Government cannot save us. Only God saves.

This reality does not deny the very real threat to peoples' lives and safety under some political regimes. It does not suggest that anxiety is misplaced or wrong. It simply recognizes that our hope lies not in who 'wins' or 'loses,' but in God. No matter what, our Christian vocation remains to love our neighbor as ourselves, pray for our enemies, and care for the widowed, orphaned, imprisoned, outcast, sick, and all to whom Jesus brought healing and hope. As the 'strange people' of God, God calls us to choose to give up our power on behalf of 'the least of these,' choosing the way of the cross. To live as people of God means to choose to risk all that we have and are (even our lives) so that others would experience the Good News of God's love, grace, and mercy for all.

Our feelings about the election results - whatever they are - are not wrong. However, instead of living from our feelings, may we live as the people of God. May we remember each morning that in our baptism, God has given us a clean slate. God hears our desperate prayers and invites the people of God to be there for us. And God calls us as God's people to provide for one another. No matter what the government or society does, we as the people of God live in a peculiar hope. A hope that calls us to continue the work of the gospel. A hope that insists that we cannot count on the government, or our beliefs, or our actions to save us. Because only God saves. That is the kingdom toward which we work. May God's kingdom come. And may it come here, now, and among us.

*Pastor Erin*

## Sunday Worship

9:00 am and noon on ZOOM  
[www.yourchrist.org](http://www.yourchrist.org)

## Faith Formation

Check out page 2 for more information on Dialogues on Race and Timothy & Titus studies

## Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor

Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant

Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Music

Bonnie Bucholz, Dir. Traditional Music

Jo Chiko, Handbell Choir Director

Dan Cramer, Director of Social Media Marketing

Kristina Dickens  
Children & Family Ministries Director

## Contact Information

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Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills



@ChristClarendon



clc.clarendon.hills

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## IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Beginning on November 1st we will be changing the worship style for our noon worshippers. The 12:00 service that has been the same as the 9AM Zoom service will transition to an interactive Zoom service. Beginning November 8, the service will be an interactive format instead of a video.



## Handbell Ringers Wanted

CLC's handbell choir would like to begin rehearsals in a safe, socially-distanced manner at the church, but are in need of new ringers in order to accommodate the musical selections. If you are interested in learning more about playing handbells, our handbell director, Jo Chiko, would love to talk to you! Email Jo at [kjochiko-01@yahoo.com](mailto:kjochiko-01@yahoo.com)



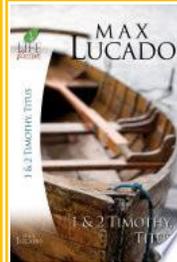
There is a craft project for the Confirmation Class to work on the morning of November 22nd in the beginning of

class. Your craft will also be delivered at the same time as the Sunday School's craft. Please watch for an email from Ms. Kristina on the delivery date of the craft kit to all the Confirmation Class children.



The Monday evening Bible study will wrap up in November. The rest of the schedule for that study is:

11/9 - Chapter 6      11/23 - Chapter 7 (final)



The Thursday Bible Study meeting on Zoom, and will be studying the book 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus: Life Lessons. It is scheduled for November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89426491954?>



Virtual  
Baby  
Shower  
Thank  
You!

Thank you to all the Christ Lutheran Church families and Celebration Pre-school families who have donated to the **Virtual Baby Shower!**

The mama-to-be of the baby girl has picked up her baby shower gifts and was so grateful for all of the love! We will meet with the other mama-to-be soon.

Please join us on Zoom this Sunday for blessings of joy, love, safety and great health for these new families as we lift up and dedicate these items.



You may have noticed that we are trying to incorporate many different people into our Sunday worship services. **If you would like to volunteer to be a virtual assisting minister, we'd love to hear from you!!** All it takes is a cell phone! Contact the church office and someone will reach out to you.



Pastor Erin and the CLC Worship Team would like to hear from you with feedback relating to worship; whether it's about our regular Zoom services or worship outdoors on the hill. What are your thoughts? Is there something you would like to see implemented? Music you would like to hear? Please take a moment and send us an email (with Worship Feedback in the subject line) so that we can share your input. The Worship Team meets on the first Monday evening of each month. Send emails to [office@yourchrist.org](mailto:office@yourchrist.org) or you may reach out to Pastor Erin directly at [Pastor@yourchrist.org](mailto:Pastor@yourchrist.org).



Youth & Family Ministry is sponsoring a Holiday Tree at the Brookfield Zoo this year. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 15th** for the Brookfield Zoo Community Tree Trim. Please email Ms. Kristina for more information! **We have 6 tickets and 1 car pass available!** Please check your emails for the tickets emailed to you for the day.

If you have your own zoo membership, you do not need to reserve tickets but you will need to obtain your time slot through your membership online.

Please email me and let me know you are joining us via your family membership so I may include you in the ornament making emails for this Christmas Tree Trim.

Christ Lutheran Church's day to decorate is Sunday, November 15th, 2020. You may ONLY decorate on this day. More details on the event will be emailed to those who are attending this holiday event. Check your emails this week for delivery of the ornaments to your home.

Kristina Dickens

[KristinaDickens15@gmail.com](mailto:KristinaDickens15@gmail.com)



Please join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Tricia for the Christ Craft Corner. We will be making a Thanksgiving craft for all the children to enjoy. Please watch for an email from Ms. Kristina on the delivery date of the craft kit to all the Sunday School children. If your child is not registered in Sunday School and would like to join us for the craft, please email Ms. Kristina. Stay tuned for Zoom information.



As we all begin to plan for our own Thanksgiving celebrations during this strange time of COVID, let's not forget about the students of District 86 (Hinsdale South) who we have been faithfully supporting for the past few years. Many of these families do not have the resources to be able to provide themselves a Thanksgiving meal.

Beginning next Sunday and through the week before Christmas, we will begin to take orders for gift cards through our affiliation with Shop With Scrip. Each card purchased gives back to the ministries of CLC in some way because the church earns a few percent on each card sold. Not only can you begin to shop for your own families, but please consider offering a WalMart or Target card in a denomination of \$25.00 to be given to a District 86 family!

**Print out the list of available vendors attached to this email and start planning!**



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## Shop Amazon Smile and help Christ Lutheran Church!

In this time of social distancing and trying to stay safe, many of us are relying on Amazon.com for deliveries of items from bananas to kitty litter, not to mention the upcoming Christmas Shopping season. It's easy, it's safe, and it's a way to help fund the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church through the Amazon Smile program.

**What is Amazon Smile?** AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Christ Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support the ministries of CLC. It's completely free and easy to set up with your existing Amazon.com account.

**How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?** On your first visit to AmazonSmile you need to select Christ Lutheran Church as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

**How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?** The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply.

**It's easy, it's completely free, and it helps the church. It's a win-win!!**